Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 02160 092204Z ACTION ARA-10

R 092150Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3127
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: PINT, NU

SUBJECT: NEWSMEN PROTEST CENSORSHIP AND BEGIN STRIKE

- 1. MANAGUA UNION OF RADIO NEWSMEN IS CIRCULATING UNSIGNED MANIFESTO DATED APRIL 30 WHICH CALLS ON GON TO END CENSORSHIP IMMEDIATELY. PROLONGATION OF CENSORSHIP IS DESCRIBED AS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE MANIFESTO STATES THAT CENSORSHIP IS NO LONGER FURTHER JUSTIFIED, BUT THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO WANT TO HIDE THIEIR IMMORAL AND CORRUPT ADMINISTRATION CONTINUE TO URGE SOMOZA TO CONTINUE CENSORSHIP TO COMBAT COMMUNISM.
- 2. THE UNION IS BROADBASED, REPRESENTATIVE GROUP WHICH INCLUDES SOME EMPLOYEES OF RADIO STATIONS EITHER SOMOZA OWNED OR PRO-GON. THIS PUBLIC MOVE FOLLOWS THEIR RECENT PRIVATE LETTER TO SOMOZA URGING END TO CENSORSHIP. PARTIAL NEWS STRIKE ALSO SURFACED ON MAY 9 WITH NEWS BLACKOUT ON ALL STATIONS EXCEPT TWO GON RADIO STATIONS AND ONE TV STATION. STRIKE IS FOR TWO DAYS AND IS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE EXPLAINED TO PUBLIC IN SECOND MANIFESTO.

3. COMMENT: RADIO NEWSMEN ARE NOT POWERFUL ENOUGHT TO ALTER GON POSITION ON CENSORSHIP BUT DO CONSTITUTE FURTHER SIGNIFICANT STRAW ON CAMEL'S BACK.
THEBERGE

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Message Attributes

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